

Members

Rep. Charlie Brown, Chairperson
Rep. Cindy Noe
Sen. Connie Lawson
Sen. Vi Simpson
Loretta Kroin
Kathleen O'Connell
Stacey Cornett
Margie Payne
Ronda Ames
Valerie N. Markley
Bryan Lett
Caroline Doebbling
Kurt Carlson
Chris Taelman
Jane Horn
Abigail P. Flynn



COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

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Authority: IC 12-21-6.5

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 19, 2008
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. Charlie Brown, Chairperson; Rep. Cindy Noe; Sen. Connie Lawson; Sen. Vi Simpson; Stacey Cornett; Margie Payne; Ronda Ames; Valerie N. Markley; Bryan Lett; Caroline Doebbling; Kurt Carlson; Chris Taelman; Jane Horn.

Members Absent: Loretta Kroin; Kathleen O'Connell; Abigail P. Flynn.

(1) Call to Order and Introductions

Representative Charlie Brown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:15 P.M. Chairman Brown asked the members to introduce themselves. He explained that the Commission received no mandated topics of study from either legislation or the Legislative Council.

(2) Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA), Distribution of Quarterly Financial Review

Cathy Boggs, Director, DMHA, provided the members with copies of the quarterly

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

report. (Exhibit 1)

(3) Transformation Plan

(A) Ms. Gina Eckart, Assistant Director, DMHA, updated the Commission on the delivery and financing component of the Transformation Plan. (Exhibit 2) (Please note that the Transformation Plan is Indiana's plan for making changes to the state's mental health delivery system resulting from the President's New Freedom Commission report that was presented in 2003.) Ms. Eckart reported that the federal rules concerning reimbursement for community centers are being held until April 1, 2009. According to Ms. Eckart, it may be necessary to revisit the provisions of IC 12-29-4 (SEA 350-2008, SECTION 7; P.L. 123-2008) concerning how Indiana reacts to the changes in funding for community mental health centers in the federal rules. In response to questions, Ms. Eckart said that it is not likely that there will be significant changes to the funding rules from the draft rules. There may be some issues with the proposed rules as they relate to a single case manager for individuals with co-occurring conditions.

(B) Mr. Rodney Stockment, Community Services Manager, Supportive Housing, provided the Commission with information on new initiatives in the area of supportive housing for homeless individuals with mental illness. (Exhibit 3) Mr. Stockment indicated that the Community Development Authority is looking for multi-agency funding for supportive housing. In answer to a question from Chairman Brown, Mr. Stockment said he does not believe that other states are "dumping" individuals in Indiana to get services for the individuals from Indiana.

(C) Dr. George Parker, Medical Director for DMHA, discussed forensic issues that have arisen in the transformation plan. He discussed the following five points: (1) pre-arrest diversion; (2) post booking diversion with mental health courts (there are mental health courts in seven counties); (3) jail mental health services; (4) prison services for individuals with mental health issues; and (5) probation and parole intervention.

(4) Discussion of the Shortage of Psychiatrists in Indiana

Dr. Christopher McDougle, the Albert E. Sterne Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, Indiana University of Medicine and Dr. Andrew Chambers, Indiana University School of Medicine, provided the Commission with information on the number of psychiatrists being trained in Indiana. (Exhibit 4) Dr. McDougle testified that Indiana University is the second largest medical school in the country with 340 students per class. The state is 43rd in the nation in the number of psychiatrists per capita. Also, the psychiatrists currently practicing in Indiana are aging, which will exacerbate the shortage of psychiatrists in years to come. The Medical School could train ten psychiatrists per class without additional staff, but they only have money for stipends and benefits for five students. The same shortage exists in training psychologists. The state needs to provide additional incentives to train psychiatrists. Dr. McDougle and Dr. Chambers said that they thought a loan forgiveness program would be the best way to attract students to the field. In answer to questions from Senator Simpson, Dr. McDougle indicated that if the school had the funding for additional students, there would be students who would apply. They have interviewed a number of students for the program well over the five students they can fund.

(5) Department of Correction (DOC)

(A) Mr. Tim Brown, Director of Legislative Service, DOC, indicated that

Commissioner Edwin Buss was unable to attend the meeting because of previous commitments. Mr. Brown introduced the individuals from the DOC who made presentations.

(B) Mr. Dan Burch, Director of Re-Entry Programs, reported that in 2007 the DOC released 18,246 inmates. The Department begins planning for an inmate's re-entry into the community as soon as the inmate is received into the DOC system. Eighty-three percent of the inmates have substance abuse issues. The DOC is working on an Oracle program to provide more ease in following inmates as they are released. Currently there is a 37.8% recidivism rate.

(C) Dr. Elton Amos, Director of Medical Services, DOC, provided the members with a copy of the drug formulary used by the DOC. (Exhibit 5) In answer to questions, Dr. Amos indicated that the DOC is still having difficulty in receiving information from counties when inmates are sent to the prison system. Ms. Boggs volunteered to work with Dr. Amos to develop a uniform reporting system for mental health information, including drugs, for the counties to use when transferring inmates to the DOC.

(D) Mr. Jerry Vance, Director Substance Abuse Programs, DOC, provided the Commission with information about substance abuse recovery programs within the DOC. (Exhibits 6, 7, and 8)

(6) Mental Health Treatment in County Jails

Sheriff Stephen P. Luce, Sheriff of Knox County, discussed issues relating to mental health treatment in county jails. (Exhibit 9) Counties are paid \$35 per day for housing inmates for the DOC. That money is put into the county general fund. Sheriff Luce asked that thirty percent of the \$35 be designated for drug treatment programs in the county jails. Sheriff Luce said that he has not discussed this request with the Association of Indiana Counties.

(7) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

The next meetings of the Commission are:

September 4 at 9:00 A.M. in Room 404 of the State House

September 23 at 1:00 P.M. in Room 404 of the State House

October 21 at 1:00 P.M. in Room 404 of the State House (added since meeting)